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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

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### DOGS IN TOWN.

It is somewhat of an Irishism to say that fondness for dogs is a humane instinct. Nevertheless, there is a thread of nobleness in the character of that man, no matter how otherwise uncouth and degraded he may be, who has a genuine sentiment of regard for a dog. The dog is a true friend of man, and if individual specimens are vicious in temper, it is usually because they have been made so by surroundings and treatment. It is, therefore, with no antipathy for the dog, but with ready acknowledgment of his worth and usefulness that I would suggest that he is a nuisance as a denizen of the city.

Cities exist for the convenience and benefit of man, but they have grown in a haphazard way, retaining many rural features long after these have ceased to have any rational excuse for remaining. There are many persons still living who can remember when swine roamed about the streets of New York, and were the unkempt predecessors of Waring's "white angels." Dickens gives this picture of Broadway a half-century ago, and the same conditions existed less than four decades ago, to my own knowledge:

"Once more in Broadway! Two portly sows are trotting behind a carriage, and a select party of gentlemen hogs have just turned the corner. They are the city scavengers. They are never attended upon, or fed, or driven, or caught, but are thrown upon their own resources early in life, and become preternaturally knowing in consequence. Every pig knows where he lives better than any one could tell him. At this hour, just as evening is closing in, you will see them roaming towards bed by scores, eating their way to the last, perfect self-possession and self-reliance and immovable composure being their foremost attributes."

The hog has gone, but the dog lags superfluous, and even in his best estate is a care and a menace; often the unsuspected carrier of disease, as well as an evident source of filth. The streets would be much easier to keep clean if dogs could be excluded from them, as they are already from the parks. The cost, private and public, of cleaning up canine filth is unmistakably onerous, and it is, in fact, a chief source of street untidiness. Any one who has lived in a corner house can sympathize with that statement.

In addition to this, the dog in apartment-houses and wherever human habitation is dense is a cause of discomfort as well as of serious deterioration in the health of human dwellers therein. In one instance, a baby was rendered really ill by the dog in the house opposite, who at brief intervals through the day and late into the night would spring up to the open window of his apartment and express his canine enthusiasm in unmelodious

accents. The babe, hushed to sleep, would be rudely awakened perhaps five minutes after, and this over and over again until, fortunately, cold weather has closed windows and brought surcease of this particular cause of complaint. And this is but one instance of innumerable wrongs of various sorts inflicted on a multitude of innocent sufferers. The dog himself is also a frequent sufferer from being kennelled in a place which may do for human habitation, but is certainly no place for a dog.

This is a subject which might well come under the purview of our Board of Health with the purpose of controlling to some extent the annoyance. As we grow in genuine urban life we will minimize all street noises and everything which tends to make life irksome. The car-horse has had his day and has almost disappeared. The old clothes man with his jarring outcry, the scissors-grinder with his tangle of bells, and the dog with his tendency to leave a reminder of himself on every doorstep, should follow him into oblivion, and remain only as memories in urban life.

GEORGE WILLIAM WINTERBURN.

### THE MENACE OF PSEUDO-PATRIOTISM.

THERE are many reasons why the present seems a fit time for a revival of genuine patriotism; that is, of such a sentiment of devoted affection for Fatherland as shall be rational instead of merely passionate, generous instead of jealous, calm and confident instead of shrill and petulant; a sentiment characterized by a willingness to learn from the experience of others, rather than by a truculent self-assertion and self-complacency; in short, a devotion to the public welfare that shall be as quick to discern the danger within as the danger without, and as ready to expose and combat it despite the immemorial custom of crowning soldiers and stoning prophets. This we understand to be patriotism as opposed to mere provincialism, or that insane prejudice against the outsider which once made the words for stranger and enemy synonymous; as opposed, too, to those merely formal protestations of devotion, hysterical though they be, whereby patriots for revenue only seek to blind the people's eyes to their designs.

These pseudo-patriots may be subdivided indefinitely; but two classes of them deserve at least a passing notice. One, whom we may designate as patriots for political effect, belong to a parasitic race probably as old as government itself. But they were so much in evidence during the middle of last century that Dr. Johnson thought it worth while to immortalize them in the Dictionary. In the fourth edition he therefore inserted as a second definition of the word *patriot*, "It is sometimes used for a factious disturber of the government." This smack of the Tory, to be sure, but a goodly measure of truth was mingled with its prejudice, and Sir Robert Walpole brought sound Whig testimony to bear it out when he said, "A patriot, Sir! Why patriots spring up like mushrooms. I could raise fifty of them within the four and twenty hours. I have raised many of them in one night. It is but refusing to gratify an unreasonable and insolent demand and up starts a patriot. I have never been afraid of making patriots; but I disdain and despise all their efforts." Macaulay, too, has his fling at them, when he says of the elder Pitt, then fighting for office: "He was not invited to become a placeman; and he, therefore, stuck firmer to his old trade as patriot."

It was this type of pseudo-patriotism which Browning called "the